

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-05 ARAE-00  
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05  
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /074 W  
----- 030048 /42

P R 161415Z DEC 76  
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3884  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN  
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO  
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 2549

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, GY, UK  
SUBJECT: BURNHAM PICKS ON BRITISH

REF: GEORGETOWN 2543 (NOTAL)

1. PAO LEARNED DECEMBER 15 FROM LOCAL JOURNALIST THAT  
PRIME MINISTER BURNHAM HAD TOLD JOURNALIST AT A RECEPTION  
LATER IN THE EVENING ON DECEMBER 14 THAT THE FIRST  
SECRETARY HE REFERRED TO IN HIS SPEECH THAT HE MAY DECLARE  
PERSONA NON GRATA REPORTED REFTEL WAS ONE OF THREE FIRST  
SECRETARIES IN THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION IN GEORGETOWN.

2. BURNHAM POINTED OUT TO JOURNALIST THAT HE WAS VERY  
DISSATISFIED AND UPSET BY ERRONEOUS REPORTS ON GUYANA  
APPEARING THE THE BRITISH PRESS. HE SAID, QUOTE THEY  
(THE BRITISH) HAVE BEEN VERY NASTY UNQUOTE.

3. BURNHAM CONTINUED  
THAT THERE ARE THREE FIRST  
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SECRETARIES IN THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION AND  
THAT HE REALLY HADN'T DECIDED WHICH OF THE THREE  
SHOULD BE PNG'D. HE ALSO ADMITTED THAT HE WAS  
HYPOTHESIZING AND THAT HE HAD MADE THE COMMENT  
WHEN HE DID TO QUOTE STIR UP THINGS AND CAUSE  
CONSTERNATION UNQUOTE.

4. SAME SOURCE ALSO ADVISED PAO THAT RECENTLY A FIRST SECRETARY AT THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION HAD HOSTED A COCKTAIL PARTY AT WHICH WERE PRESENT THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, CHRISTOPHER NASCIMENTO; VICTOR FORSPQHE, CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER; RALPH CHANDISINGH, INFORMATION OFFICER, MINISTRY OF FORIEGN AFFAIRS; AND HERMAN SINGH, SENIOR POLITICAL REPORTER, GUYANA CHRONICLE. DURING THE COURSE OF THE PARTY, THE HOST MADE SEVERAL HARSH AND DEROGATORY REMARKS ABOUT GUYANA. PAO SOURCE SPECULATED THAT NEWS OF THESE REMARKS HAD REACHED PM.

5. CHARGE INFORMED BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER PETER GAUTREY OF ABOVE INFORMATION. GAUTREY THOUGHT THAT BURNHAM WAS FABRICATING ENTIRE INCIDENT. HE BELIEVES THAT WHOLE SCENARIO IS TYPICAL BURNHAM STUNT TO INJECT A CERTAIN ATMOSPHERE IN SPEECH TO EMPHASIZE POINT TO GUYANESE. GAUTREY DOES NOT BELIEVE BURNHAM WILL PROCEED FURTHER SINCE IN HIS OPINION TIME TO PNG OFFICER WAS BEFORE SPEECH AND THEN ANNOUNCE TO ASSEMBLAGE ACTION TAKEN. WE UNDERSTAND NO RESIDENT MEMBER OF ANY DIPLOMATIC MISSION AS BEEN DECLARED PERSONA NON GRATA SINCE GUYANA GAINED ITS INDEPENDENCE.

6. FOR AMEMBASSY LONDON: ENTIRE INCIDENT BEGAN WHEN PRIME MINISTER ANNOUNCED IN SPEECH ON DECEMBER 14 THAT HE WAS THINKING OF PNG-ING AN  
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UNNAMED FIRST SECRETARY FOR SPREADING FALSE  
RUMORS IN GUYANA.  
MCCOY

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, PERSONAL OPINION, DEFAMATION, ALLEGATIONS, GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 16 DEC 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ElyME  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976GEORGE02549  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760463-0388  
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**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 GEORGETOWN 2543  
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**Review Authority:** ElyME  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
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**Review Date:** 19 MAY 2004  
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**Subject:** BURNHAM PICKS ON BRITISH  
**TAGS:** PFOR, GY, UK, (BURNHAM, L F S)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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